



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Annual Newsletter

June, 2012

BOARD MEMBERS

Thomas J. Boll, Ph.D., Chair, Psychologist Member
Pamela R. Snider, Ph.D., Vice-Chair, Psychologist Member
Clara Gerhardt, MBA, Ph.D., Psychologist Member
Joseph D. Ackerson, Ph.D., Psychologist Member
Mary Ann Bowers, Ph.D., Psychologist Member
Mr. Joseph Alan Taylor, M.S., Psychological Technician Member
Ms. Chacolby Burns-Johnson, Public Member

OFFICE STAFF

Mrs. Lori Rall, Executive Officer
Mrs. Joya Burge, Administrative Assistant

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: albdpsychology@psychology.alabama.gov

**Please visit our website for a link to the Alabama Licensing Law
and the Board's Administrative Code**

BOARD MEMBER LEAVES THE BOARD

Larry W. Bates, Ph.D. left the Board after serving a seven year term. His dedication to the responsibilities of the Board and carrying out its mandate on behalf of the consumer and citizens at large will be missed. The Board would like to extend their many thanks for all of his hard work. We would like to wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED TO THE BOARD

Mary Ann Bowers, Ph.D. was appointed by Governor Bentley to serve a five-year term.

CHAIR'S ADDRESS by Tom Boll, Ph.D., ABPP

The *Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology* has had a very busy year addressing a diversity of topics. First and most importantly we welcomed a new Executive Director – Lori Rall – upon the retirement of our longtime colleague Kathy Cawood. Lori has taken up very actively and professionally a myriad of duties of the usual sort related to the complex undertakings of the Board. Additionally, she has been an active participant in our renewed relationship with the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards which is exceedingly positive. She has attended two of their national meetings and has benefitted well from the topics that were discussed which are of national significance and have direct import in the state of Alabama as we relate to how it is that other licensing boards carry out related activities. These activities include managing tele-health, dealing with psychologists who visit Alabama on a temporary basis from other states, continuing education requirements, and employing background checks for applicants, among others. These are all active topics of consideration and discussion among Board members and Lori's sophistication and level of knowledge and active participation in these discussions is critical to all of us. We are delighted to have her on board and have been very fortunate to have her be willing to join us in this undertaking.

We are also very fortunate that our longtime colleague Joya Burge continues in her position and represents a high level of competence, stability and knowledge and brings a history of the organization that is absolutely invaluable. We are very fortunate to have these two

very fine individuals. I have been licensed in 11 states and have had business activities with at least that many more. In that context I can tell each of you that our Board is very well-served by our administrative staff. The protection of the public, which is our primary responsibility, is in very good hands.

We have also been very actively involved with the Alabama Psychological Association, to the extent that it is appropriate for the Board to do so, in their efforts to improve the state's licensing law. We have obviously run into some difficulties of a political nature which will not be explored here.

Nevertheless, it is important to point out that under the leadership of Linda Alverson-Eiland, Ph.D. and Gaye Vance, Ph.D., among others, and with the very active participation from our Board members, especially Joe Ackerson, Ph.D., ABPP, a very good set of changes, modernizations and streamlining has been accomplished and is currently being considered at the Legislative level. It would certainly be to all of our benefit to have such an improvement in the law. Whether or not it is possible to accomplish this is more of a political than a content-based reality. All of you will be kept apprised of that by the Alabama Psychological Association, which has worked exceedingly hard for more than a year on this important task.

Disciplinary action is something that everybody is concerned about with regard to their relationship with any licensing board, ours included. For that reason, a little information about the Board's disciplinary process is helpful as there is much misinformation that seems to float about. This is probably anxiety-driven and understandable but nevertheless is not helpful. The primary role of the *Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology* and the licensing law is protection of the public, not protection of psychologists or enhancement of their practice. In that context, disciplinary issues are raised. In the last two years, the Board received twenty two complaints to be considered. Of those, six had sufficient merit to rise to the level of probable cause and to be pursued further with regard to the possibility of a hearing or other disciplinary-related actions. Each complaint was very carefully reviewed by the Board investigative Committee, including Board members and our very capable and specifically experienced attorney, Matt Beam. In several instances, an outside contracted Expert was consulted for review, as well.

The majority of these cases, 73%, were found to not rise to the level of probable cause. This indicates that, while a fair number of complaints are raised, most do not have sufficient merit to warrant taking action against a licensee. Even though these determinations take time in order for careful review to be undertaken, the general experience in the psychology community is that only those circumstances which pass multiple sieves of evaluation go on to probable cause. That should be a reassurance to the public to know that each of their complaints is given exceptionally careful scrutiny. It should also be a reassurance to the public to know that in the vast majority of cases psychologists are performing ethically and appropriately. While a complaint may reflect a genuine dissatisfaction with one aspect of a consumer's interaction with a psychologist, it sometimes does not reflect a violation of our ethics or levels of professional standards or licensing law.

The *Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology* is comprised of an excellent group of individuals including Pam Snyder, Ph.D., Joe Ackerson, Ph.D., ABPP, Mary Bowers, Ph.D., Clara Gerhardt, Ph.D. (Past-Chair), Joe Taylor, M.S.-Psychological Technician and Chacolby Burns-Johnson-Public Member. Our Board continues to seek good nominees and to try to diversify our representation, especially geographically and with regard to male/female distribution. We currently have no members from the southern regions of the state ranging from Enterprise and Dothan all the way to Mobile. We do have representatives from Montgomery, Birmingham and the Shoals area. It is our hope that individuals from those unrepresented areas will make themselves available to the Alabama Psychological Association, which makes the Board member nominations that are presented to the Governor for appointment.

It is a pleasure to serve on the Board in this my fourth year. It is not a position that requires an inordinate amount of work, but it bears a very significant responsibility which is felt by and taken seriously by each and every Board member. The Board is very appreciative of the participation of the Alabama Psychological Association and very much welcomes the participation of other members in our open meetings. It is a great honor to serve as Chair this year and I look forward to continuing service throughout my term.

Sincerely,

Tom Boll, Ph.D., ABPP

NEW LICENSES ISSUED

September 2011 to present

Psychologists

Nicholas P. Guzman, Psy.D., #1702, Covina, CA
 Stacey A. Shaw, Psy.D., #1703, Barboursville, WV
 Michael R. Temple, Ph.D., #1704, Belleville, IL
 David H. Tytell, Psy.D., #1705, Birmingham, AL
 Kristi A. Zerga, Psy.D., #1706, Mililani, HI
 Andrea M. Antonio, Psy.D., #1707, Birmingham, AL
 Stephanie G. Barfield, Ph.D., #1708, Fairhope, AL
 Jennifer A. Crabb, Ph.D., #1709, Tampa, FL
 Elizabeth L. Hart, Ph.D., #1710, Birmingham, AL
 Katherine Kolacki, Psy.D., #1711, Ft. Wainwright, AK
 Shelley K. Krach, Ph.D., #1712, Montgomery, AL
 Katherine McGuire, Psy.D., #1713, Montgomery, AL
 Kale E. Kirkland, Ph.D., #1714, Montgomery, AL
 Stacy Levin Ladden, Psy.D., #1715, Birmingham, AL
 Todd E. Walborn, Psy.D., #1716, Birmingham, AL
 Matthew Hunter Brooks, Psy.D., #1717, APO, AE
 Hye In Chang, Ph.D., #1718, Pittsburgh, PA
 Kristy A. Domnanovich, Ph.D., #1719, Birmingham, AL
 Michelle M. Hilgeman, Ph.D., #1720, Birmingham, AL
 Andrew B. Lammy, Ph.D., #1721, Columbus, MS
 Xavier R. Pena, Psy.D., #1722, Mililani, HI
 Justin O. Anderson, Psy.D., #1723, San Antonio, TX
 Beth N. Fischgrund, Ph.D., #1724, Honolulu, HI
 Tabitha A. Gressard, Psy.D., #1725, Waipahu, HI
 Angela P. Hatcher, Ph.D., #1726, Theodore, AL
 Nick A. DeFilippis, Ph.D., #1727, Atlanta, GA
 Kathleen Tucker Payne, Ph.D., #1728, Biloxi, MS
 Jaime Carreno Ponce, Ph.D., #1729, Ft. Drum, NY
 Andre Peter Chaplin, Psy.D., #1730, Honolulu, HI
 Charles Brendan Clark, Ph.D., #1731, Birmingham, AL
 Jessica Majel Harmon, Psy.D., #1733, Honolulu, HI
 Jennifer Lynn McDonald, Ph.D., #1734, DuPont, WA
 Carlton Dale Posey, Ph.D., #1735, Montgomery, AL
 Stacey L. Richardson, Ph.D., #1737, Fayetteville, NC
 Benjamin Shawn Stillman, Psy.D., #1738, Atlanta, GA
 Amy J. Angleman, Ph.D., #1739, Fredericksburg, VA
 Trevor R. Buckley, Ph.D., #1740, San Antonio, TX
 Jeremy M. Johnson, Psy.D., #1741, Pinson, AL
 Brian R. Macobin, Psy.D., #1742, New Orleans, LA
 Jay Benjamin St. Amant, Ph.D., #1743, Springfield, MA
 Darnell Schuettler, Ph.D., #1744, North Charleston, SC
 Brandy Leigh Smith, Ph.D., #1745, Auburn, AL
 Phillip Nelson Smith, Ph.D., #1746, Mobile, AL
 Joe Wheeler Dixon, Ph.D., #1747, Tuscaloosa, AL
 Kristee Hamm Treadwell, Ph.D., #1748, Auburn, AL
 Amber E. Douglas, Psy.D., #1749, Auburn, AL
 Rebecca A. Emens, Ph.D., #1750, Slatillo, MS
 Dawn D. McDaniel, Ph.D., #1751, Atlanta, GA

NEW LICENSES ISSUED *continued...*

Ginger Diane Pezent, Ph.D., #1752, Bossier City, LA
 Jana Hobson, Psy.D., #1754, North Las Vegas, NV
 Juliana M. Simmons, Psy.D., #1755, New Bern, NC
 Amber H. Simpler, Ph.D., #1756, Hoover, AL

Psychological Technicians

Theresa M. Rehm-Hamilton, M.S., #1736, Mobile, AL
 Cory A. Giddens, M.S., #1753, Montgomery, AL

NON RENEWALS***Fiscal Year 2012*****Psychologists**

Kristin Addison-Brown, Ph.D., #1573, Paragould, AR
 Charles Daniel Crosby, Ph.D., #1588, Huntsville, AL
 Kimberly D. Delaney, Psy.D., #1570, Eugene, OR
 Jon E. Dennig, Ph.D., #1574, Hot Springs, SD
 Aleta R. Edwards, Psy.D., #1688, Tampa, FL
 Sharon Gotlieb-Cook, Ph.D., #632, Cleveland, AL
 J. Bart Hodgins, Ph.D., #475, Birmingham, AL
 Amy D. James, Psy.D., #1503, New Bern, NC
 Susan J. Kotler, Ph.D., #903, Carson City, NV
 Rachel S. Lentz, Psy.D., #1306, Colorado Springs, CO
 Thomas M. Lowry, III, Psy.D., #159, Birmingham, AL
 Jocelyn S. McGee, Ph.D., #1390, Houston, TX
 Melanie A. Miller, Psy.D., #1556, Georgetown, TX
 Christopher J. Murphy, Psy.D., #1601, Martinez, GA
 Mathew B. Rariden, Psy.D., #1559, Virginia Beach, VA
 Ernest E. Roberts, Ph.D., #95, Fairhope, AL
 Jenna R. Silverman, Ph.D., #1607, Silver Spring, MD
 Jean E. Sullivan, Ph.D., #1255, San Diego, CA
 Kathleen A. Trickle, Psy.D., #1418, Mars Hill, NC
 Kacey Jo Wilson, Ph.D., #1608, Chapel Hill, NC
 Martha S. Woolverton, Ph.D., #1026, Asheville, NC

Psychological Technician

Tara Beth Luellen, M.A., #1651, Cary, NC

CURRENT NUMBER OF LICENSEES

Psychologists: 997

Psychological Technicians: 32

COMPLAINTS

The Board received 10 complaints against licensed psychologists during F.Y. 2011; 6 resulted in no probable cause for disciplinary action and 3 resulted in probable cause for disciplinary action and 1 was withdrawn by the complainant. The Board received 1 complaint during F.Y. 2012; resulting in probable cause for disciplinary action.

DISCIPLINES

Name: April Joy Lightsey, Ph.D., #1679

Disciplinary Action(s): Suspension

Date of Discipline: January 13, 2012

Reason(s) for Discipline: Failure to comply with the continuing education requirements and failure to pay the renewal/continuing education fees.

Name: Robert M. Pitts, Jr., Psy.D. #549

Disciplinary Action(s): Completion of 20 hours of American Psychological Association approved continuing education (12 of the required 20 hours must be in ethics focusing on confidentiality and or court appointments).

Date of Discipline: March 9, 2012

Reason(s) for Discipline: Violation of Code of Alabama §34-26-46(a)(17) and Administrative Code Rule 750-X-6-.02 (American Psychological Association, Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, 2002 Edition), Standard 4.02(a) (Discussing the Limits of Confidentiality) and Standards 3.10(a)(c) and (d) (Informed Consent).

Name: Albert Bartow Ray, Jr., Ph.D., #1294

Disciplinary Action(s): Suspension

Date of Discipline: January 13, 2012

Reason(s) for Discipline: Failure to comply with the continuing education requirements and failure to pay the renewal/continuing education fees.

Name: Steven Michael Schmidt, Ph.D., #1388

Disciplinary Action(s): Continued suspension on January 13, 2012

Date of Discipline: January 13, 2012

Reason(s) for Discipline: Failure to comply with the continuing education requirements and failure to pay the renewal/continuing education fees.

DISCIPLINES *continued...***Name:** Kelly Schuck, Ph.D., #1572**Disciplinary Action(s):** Continued suspension on January 13, 2012**Date of Discipline:** January 13, 2012**Reason(s) for Discipline:** Failure to comply with the continuing education requirements and failure to pay the renewal/continuing education fees.**RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES**

750-X-2-.08 Licensure Of Applicants Licensed To Practice Psychology In Another Jurisdiction

Applicants must meet the same education and training requirements as outlined in 750-X-2-.04 **and 750-X-2-.07.**750-X-6-.02 American Psychological Association Ethical Principles Of Psychologists And Code Of Conduct, 2002 Edition, **as amended February 20, 2010**

Sections amended: Introduction and Applicability, 1.02 Conflicts Between Ethics and Law, Regulations, or Other Governing Legal Authority and 1.03 Conflicts Between Ethics and Organizational Demands.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The office staff requests that you please report your continuing education hours as you complete them during the year. The individual reporting form and continuing education rules and regulations can be accessed on the Board's web site:
psychology.alabama.gov

Note:**The C.E. requirement for psychologists is 20 hours per year.****The C.E. requirement for psychological technicians is 10 hours per year.**

PLEASE NOTE: The address you provide on the annual renewal notice is the address of record listed with the Board of Psychology. This is the address that is given to the public upon request and where license renewal forms are sent. If you wish to change your address of record, please either mail notification to the Board's office or send an e-mail to:

albdpsychology@psychology.alabama.gov.

FEE SCHEDULE

Application Fee:	
Psychologists	\$200.00
Psychological Technicians	\$130.00
Examination Fee:	
(State) PSE	\$ 50.00
License Renewal:	
Psychologists	\$100.00
Psychological Technicians	\$ 65.00
Continuing Education Fee	\$ 50.00
Roster of Licensed Psychologists	\$ 12.00
Roster of Licensed Psychological Technicians	\$ 10.00
Replacement Certificate	\$ 15.00
Replacement Renewal Card	\$ 5.00
Copy of Rules & Regulations	\$10.00

BOARD MEETING DATES

July 13, 2012
September 14, 2012
November 9, 2012
January 11, 2013
March 8, 2013
May 10, 2013
July 12, 2013
September 13, 2013
November 8, 2013